

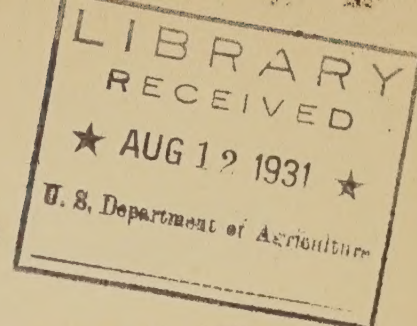
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington, D. C.



August 3, 1931

To The Canning Industry - Brokers - and Grocers.

In Re: Official Grading Service for Canned Fruits & Vegetables

Gentlemen:

As rapidly as practicable, the canned fruit and vegetable inspection and grading service authorized by the last Congress will be made available for the use of the canning industry.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics will issue certificates of grade to financially interested parties, covering canned fruits or vegetables similar to those now generally used in the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.

Since these certificates are "receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained", the convenience and value of such a commercial document in effecting transactions is readily appreciated.

The Department will undertake to make this service available in receiving markets of the United States and in the more important producing areas during the canning season. Employees of the Department will be available in 50 important markets of the country for drawing samples.

Certificates of grade will be issued on the basis of representative samples drawn on the basis of one can per 1,000 cans. Thus 24 samples will be drawn from 1,000 cases of No. 2 size cans. Twelve cans will be graded, and twelve cans will be retained under lock and key in the office where grading is done. The stored check sample will be used in event a question arises in connection with the original certification, or in event the buyer desires the Department to compare samples of deliveries with samples originally graded. The check samples will be held until applicant indicates satisfactory disposition has been made of the lot from which the samples were drawn. The samples will then be returned to the applicant at his expense, if he so requests.

Samples may be drawn by the grader or any other employee of the Department of Agriculture, or by the applicant or his representative or by a licensed sampler.

In the absence of a contract for services, the charge for grading and certification will be \$5.00 per sample of 24 cans if an employee of the Department draws the samples, plus actual expenses while absent





from his official headquarters.

In the absence of a contract for services the charge for grading samples drawn by others and delivered at the office of the grader will be \$3.00.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics will contract to grade large quantities during the fiscal year at reduced rates. Information may be had by writing the Department, indicating the volume on which grading is desired.

Announcement will be made later as to points at which canned fruits and vegetables may be graded. The locations of offices will depend largely upon the volume of business in sight at various points.

Washington will be designated as an official grading station and this office is now ready to receive samples for grading. Samples should be addressed to:

Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics,  
U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D. C.

charges prepaid.

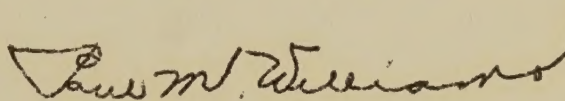
Results of grading will be furnished immediately by wire, charges collect, if applicant requests. Certificate of grade will follow by mail. Additional copies of certificates may be had at the rate of \$1.00 each.

The Bureau wishes to again stress the necessity of adequate coding if the industry is to enjoy the greatest benefit from this service. The importance of identifying each lot of canned fruits and vegetables so that the samples from the lot are not only representative but readily distinguishable as such, cannot be too strongly emphasized.

Grading will be in accordance with grades promulgated by the Department for this purpose. Copies may be had by addressing the Bureau. The use of U. S. grade nomenclature in quotations and contracts is suggested as a means of settling disputes between buyer and seller.

Forms to be executed and forwarded with samples to the grading office may be had by applying to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,



Paul M. Williams,  
Senior Marketing Specialist.



